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**9発明の名称** 耐圧性

耐圧性の優れた鋳物用アルミニウム合金

②特 願 昭62-314193

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#### 明期實

1.発明の名称

耐圧性の優れた鋳物用アルミニウム合金

- 2.特許請求の範囲
  - (1) 頂豆で、ケイ素 4~1 3 %、マグネシウム 0.1~2 %、カルシウム 0.0 0 1~0.0 1 %を含有し、残部アルミニウムおよび不純物とからなり、不純物中の鉄含有量が 0.2~0.8 %である耐圧性の優れた動物用アルミニウム合金。
  - (2) 瓜鼠で、ケイ素 4~1 3 %、マグネシウム 0.1~2 %、料 5%以下、カルシウム 0.0 0 1 ~0.0 1 %、残部アルミニウムおよび不純物とからなり、不純物中の鉄合有量が0.2~0.8%である耐圧性の優れた鋳物用アルミニウム合金。
  - (3) 重量で、ケイ素 4~1 3 %、マグネシウム 0.1~2 %、カルシウム 0.0 f 1~0.8 1 %を 含有し、さらにマンガン 1%以下およびニッケル 3%以下のうちの1 機以上を含有し、残部アルミニウムおよび不能物とからなり、不能物中の鉄含有量が 0.2~0.8 %である耐圧性の優れ

た餌物川アルミニウム合金。

- (4) 重量で、ケイ素 4~1 3 %、マグネシウム 0.1~2 %、制 5%以下、カルシウム 0.0 0 1 ~0.0 1 %を含有し、さらにマンガン 1%以下 およびニッケル 3%以下のうちの1 極以上を含 行し、残事アルミニウムおよび不純物とからなり、不純物中の鉄合有量が 0.2~0.8 %である 耐圧性の優れた動物用アルミニウム合金。
- 3. 発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は自動車、船舶、車両等のエンジン廻り 電品等の最後に耐圧解れ性を要求されるような機 域部品に使用するのに適した耐圧性の優れた助造 用アルミニウムーケイ素ーマグネシウム系合金、 またはアルミニウムーケイ素ーマグネシウムー制 系合金に関するものである。

(従来の技術)

一般に J I S 規格 A C 4 A 、 A C 4 C に て 代 表 される アルミニウムーケイ 索ーマグネシウム 系合金、 A C 4 D 、 A C 8 A 、 A C 8 B 、 A C 8 C 等

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にて代表されるアルミュウムーケイ素ーマグネシウムー 別系合金は、鋳造性がよく、熱処理を施すことによって優れた機械的性質および耐圧性が得られるところから、自動車、船舶、車両等におけるピストン等のエンジン超り部品、油圧部品、保安部品その他の機械部品鋳物用のアルミニウム合金として幅広く用いられている。

(発明が解決しようとする問題点)

しかしながら、この様のアルミニウム合金においては、合金中の鉄合有量が増加すると急激に鋳物の射圧性が低下し、鋳造された鋳物部品に往々にして圧漏れ等の欠陥を生ずる危険性があって問題であった。

発明者らの調査によると、この現象は合金中の 鉄含有量が 0.2%以下であるときは殆ど見られないが、これを超えると次第に放見されるようになり、 0.4%を超えるとその傾向が顕著になること が初かった。

ところで、一般に偽物工場においては、資源お よび経費節約の見地から新娘と称する一次合金地

第1 図 (a) (b) (c) (d) は、その代表例としてアルミニウムーケイ素ーマグネシウムー解系合金鋳物における合金中の鉄含有量と引け果発生との関係を実験的に例示したものである。

実験に際しては、合金中の鉄合有量をそれぞれ 変化させたケイ素 6.5%、マグネシウム0.3 %、 金にスクラップ材を多原に添加配合したた合金とや、スクラップ材を主体として配合されたニップ材を主体として配合されたニップ材を地位をいるが、スクラップ材を主体としてが、スクラップができない。このため幼物工場に対しての状であり、このためのから、不純物としての状合のの合金配合性には強めて類がある。このための合金配合性になるので好ましくなかった。

また、複雑な形状を有する鋳物部品では、合金中の鉄合有量の増加によって、肉厚部の凝固の遅い部分に耐圧性不良箇所を生じやすいので、これを防止するために厳密な指向性凝固を行なわればならず、鋳型の設計や鋳造方案に殊更の工夫を要する面倒があった。

本発明者らは鋳物用アルミニウムーケイ素ーマ グネシウム系またはアルミニウムーケイ素ーマグ

モールドに鋳込み、 幼塊斯面をカラーチェックに より引け集欠陥の有無を調べた。

第1図より割かるように、合金中の鉄合行量が 0.0 5%の合金(a) にあっては、鋳塊の最終凝固 部である凝固収縮底部が丸味を帯びた状態で凝固が終了しており、引け果欠陥が殆ど見られないものが、鉄合行量 0.2 2%の合金(b) になると、凝固収縮底部に細く小さな鬼裂状の引け果と多数の微細な線状の引け果が現われ、鉄合行量 0.36 %の合金(C).0.6 5 %の合金(d) と鉄合行量がさらいけ果欠陥の数や大きさが拡大し、部分的にこれらが互いに連通するようになる。

・ 発明者らの実験によれば、この関係は上記組成の合金にとどまらず、あらゆる組成の実用鋳物用アルミニウムーケイ素ーマグネシウム系合金およびアルミニウムーケイ素ーマグネシウムー関系合金に共通の傾向であって、従って、実際にこれらの合金により作られた鋳物においては、鋳造後の

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場にその表面に露出し、液体や気体がこれらの欠陥を経由して外部に流通してしまうので、このような合金で作られた鋳物を耐圧部品等に用いた場合、その耐圧性が損なわれるのである。

本発明者らは上述したような事実に鑑み、これらの問題点を克服すべく銭登研究を狙ねた結果、 鉄を多量に含むアルミニウムーケイ素ーマグネシウムー新系合金において、合金中に適量のカルシウムー解の合金にあいて、合金中に適量に際して外の中に見られる互いに連通する危災状の引け果の発生を大中に減少をはよび微細な探状の引け果の発生を大中に減少を回よることができることを見出した。

(問題点を解決するための手段)

即ち、本発明は重量でケイ素 4~1 3 %、マグネシウム 0.1~2 %、カルシウム 0.0 8 1~0.01 %を含有し、さらに必要に応じて解 5%以下、マンガン 1%以下、ニッケル 3%以下を含有し、残部アルミニウムおよび不純物とからなり、不純物

湯流れ住、引け性、助造別れ防止等を改善する効果を行し、4.8 %以下ではその効果少なく、1.3 %以上では紡物の初性や耐熱衝象性を著しく低下させる。

マグネシウム 0.1 ~2 %の添加は紡物に熱処理を施すことによって合金組織中にMg.Si を折出して合金組質を強化する効果を有し、0.1 %以下ではその効果少なく、2 %以上では伸びが小さく、また鋳造性も低下する。

鋼の5 %以下の添加は無処理を施した場合に、 時効硬化によって合金鉢物に著しい強度を付与す るものであるが、5 %以上の添加は伸びを低下し 初性を損なう。

マンガンの1%以下およびニッケルの3%以下の添加は鋳物に耐熱性を付与するものであるが、マンガン添加量が1%を超すと、添加したマンガンが合金成分中のアルミニウム、ケイ楽や不純物として含まれる鉄と反応してアルミニウムーマンガンーケイ素ー鉄系の祖大な針状化合物を品出して鈎物の物性を低下させ、またニッケルの添加量

中の鉄合行量が 0.2~0.8 %である耐圧性の優れた鋳物用アルミニウム合金である。

. (作用)

次に本発明の合金における各添加元素の作用および限定理由について説明する。

ケイ素4.0~13%の添加は合金基質を強化し、

が3 %を超すとアルミニウムーニッケル系の相大 化合物を生じて同様に初性低下を米す。

而して、このようにカルシウム添加に依る耐圧性改善効果が得られる合金中の鉄含有量の範囲は 0.2 ~0.8 %の範囲に限られものである。

何となれば鉄0.2%以下では合金制物の耐圧性

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はもともと問題は無く、また鉄含有量が0.8%を超えるとカルシウム添加によっても耐圧性改善効果が十分に得られないからである。

本発明の合金の溶製はこの種の合金系において 通常行なわれる一般的な方法が採られ、カルシウムの添加は金属カルシウムまたはアルミニウムー カルシウム母合金またはカルシウム含行フラック ス等が用いられる。

また、本発明合金を鋳造して各種鋳物製品を得るに際し、この種の合金系において奥々行なお話をオトリウムまたはストロンチウム等に依める鋳組織の改良処理、チタニウム、ホロン等に依める鋳造組織の強細化処理等によって合金中に添加されるこれら金属の含有は、これらの処理が常法の添加範囲にて行なわれている限り、本発明の効果を妨けることが無いので何等支障は無い。

本発明の合金は砂型鋳造や金型鋳造に適用可能 なことは勿論であるが、近年大型化しつ s あるダ イカスト、低圧鋳造に適用した場合にも鋳造製品 の耐圧性を向上することができる。 次に本発明の実施例を示す。

#### (実施例)

第1 没に示す如き各種組成の合金を浴製し、鉤込温度 7 2 0℃、 鋳型温度 2 0 0℃にてJIS舟底金型およびテーターモールドに鋳込み、それらから強度および伸び試験片、引け果観察試験片を作成した。なお、合金組成中のカルシウムはアルミニウムー5 %カルシウム母合金を用いて添加した。強度および伸びの測定は試験片を 5 0 0℃に6時間保持後、水焼き入れし、1 8 0 ℃で6時間焼き戻すて。処理を施した後に行なった。

引け集の観察については、テーターモールドに 幼込まれた合金鋳物を上下方向に2分割し、分割 而を面削して平滑化した後カラーチェックして、 引け集の存在状態を調べた。これらの結果を第1 表に示す。なお、引け集の観察結果は第1図に示す実験結果を参考にし、(a)の如く有害な引け集の観察されなかったものを A ランクとし(b)、(c)、 (d) と引け集の存在が顕著になるに従って、それ ぞれ B、C、D とランク付けした。

第1表の結果からカルシウム添加のない従来の アルミニウムーケイボーマグネシウム系合金(試 科番号1~4)およびアルミニウムーケイ素ーマ グネシウムー顕系合金(試料番号10~12)に おいては、合金中の鉄合有量が低い間は引け果う。 ンクはAと全く問題が無い (試科番号1) が、鉄 合行ほが 0.2%を超えると (試料番号2~4およ び10~12)有者な引け集が観測され、合有量 が多くなるに従ってB、C、Dとこれら有害な引 け現職が多くなり、これらの合金によって作られ た紡物の耐圧性に問題を生ずる恐れがあるのに対 し、これらの合金系に本発明の範囲でカルシウム を添加した本発明第1月至第4-の合金-(試料番号 5~9および13~17)においては合金中の鉄 含有量が 0.2%を超えて相当風高くなっても、い ずれもランクAで有当な引け集が存在せず、水発 明合金は耐圧性が優れていることが何かる。

また、 独度、伸びの測定結果から本発明のアル ミニウムーケイ者 - マグネシウム系合金およびア

क्रा । अ

| W  |       | 化     | 72            | 机      |     | 砹    | (X) |    | 遊貨       | 伸び   | 災ラ  | 间考              |
|----|-------|-------|---------------|--------|-----|------|-----|----|----------|------|-----|-----------------|
| 香车 | Si    | Mg    | Cu            | Fe     | Ип  | Ni   | Ca* | ΑI | (Kg me*) | (X)  | ンク  |                 |
| 1  | 7.0   | 0. 3  | _             | 0. 05  | _   |      | 2   | 残  | 28. 3    | 16.3 | Α   |                 |
| 2  | 5.0   | 1.0   | -             | 0. 65  | _   | _    | 2   | 残  | 32.0     | 1.2  | D   | 比较              |
| 3  | 7. 0  | 0. 3  | _             | 0. 43  | _   | _    | 2   | 残  | 27.1     | 3.9  | С   | 例               |
| 4  | 11.0  | 1. 5  | _             | .0. 22 | _   |      | 2   | 残  | 35. 2    | 2.2  | В   |                 |
| 5  | 5. 0. | 1.0   | -             | 0. 65  | _   | _    | 29  | 线  | 32. 0    | 2.7  | ۸   | 3T 1            |
| 6  | 7.0   | 0. 3  | , <del></del> | 0. 43  | _   | -    | 50  | 残  | 28. 0    | 7.1  | A.  | 発明              |
| 7  | 11.0  | 1. 5  | -             | 0. 22  | _   | _    | 80  | 残  | 38.5     | 3.5  | А   |                 |
| 8  | 7. 0  | 0. 3  | -             | 0. 43  | 1.0 | _    | 20  | 残  | 26. 9    | 6.4  | Á   | <b>33</b> 3     |
| 9  | 7. 0  | 0. 3  | _             | 0. 43  | -   | 2. 0 | 40  | 残  | 29. 3    | 5. 2 | Α   | 発明              |
| 10 | 5. 0  | 1.0   | 4. 0          | 0. 65  | -   | -    | 2   | 残  | 35. 9    | 0. 9 | D   | 比較              |
| 11 | 6. 5  | 0. 3  | 3. 0          | 0. 43  | _   | _    | 2   | 残  | 33. 6    | 4. 2 | С   | <del>19</del> 4 |
| 12 | 11.0  | 1.5   | 1.0           | 0. 22  | _   | _    | 2   | 残  | 34. 2    | 1.1  | В   |                 |
| 13 | 5.0   | 1.,0, | 4.0           | 0. 65  | -   |      | 30- | 残  | 37.1     | 5. 5 | - A | <b>31 2</b>     |
| 14 | 6. 5  | 0. 3  | 3. 0          | 0. 43  | _   | _    | 55  | 残  | 33. 9    | 4.9  | ۸   | 発明              |
| 15 | 11.0  | 1.5   | 1.0           | 0. 22  | _   | _    | 85  | 残  | 38. 2    | 1.7  | ۸   |                 |
| 16 | 6. 5  | 0.3   | 3. 0          | 0. 43  | 1.0 | _    | 25  | 残  | 33.5     | 1.0  | ۸   | <b>314</b>      |
| 17 | 6. 5  | 0.3   | 3. 0          | 0. 43  | -   | 2. 0 | 45  | 残  | 31.7     | 1.2  | ٨   | 発明              |
|    |       |       |               |        | _   |      |     |    |          | 1    |     |                 |

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同一組成のケイ素、マグネシウム、鋼を含む従来 合金に較べて概ね強度、伸びともに改善されてお り、機械的性質、殊に靭性においても優れている ことが判かる。

(効果)

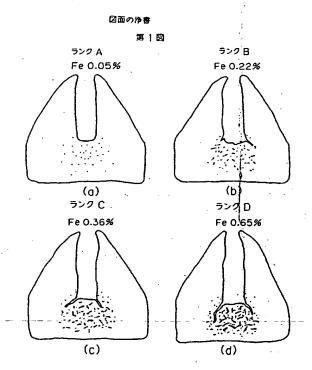
以上述べたように、従来のアルミニウムーケイ ボーマグネシウム系合金、またはアルミニウムーケイ茶ーマグネシウム・銅系合金に適量のカルシ ウムを添加含有せしめた本発明の鋳物用アルミニ ウム合金は、合金中の鉄含有量の増加にもかゝ わ らず、これを鋳造して得られた鋳物製品に引け果 に依る欠陥を生ずることが無いので、耐圧性に 般 れ、また強度、 初性も改善されるので自動車、 船 船のピストン等のエンジン廻り部品、 論物の鋳造 その他の耐圧性を必要とする機械部品鋳物の鋳造 に 最適である。

また、鋳物工場等においてスクラップ材、二次合金地金の配合使用に際しても、配合地金中の鉄不純物の調整に煩わされること無く、合金の溶製ができるので極めて効率的かつ経済的である。

4. 図面の簡単な設明

第1 図 (a)、(b)、(c) および (d)は従来のアルミニウムーケイ素ーマグネシウムー飼系合金における合金中の鉄合有量と引け異発生状態の関係を示すためのカラーチェックによる引け集観を試料である。本試料は同時に引け異発生程度を示すランク付け試料を扱わており、A、B、C、Dの順で引け集量が増大することを示す。

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手続補正費励

昭和63年 3月16日

特許庁長官 小川邦夫 殿

1. 事件の表示

昭和62年 特 許 願 第314193号

2. 発明の名称

耐圧性の優れた締物用アルミニウム合金

3. 補正をする者

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4. 補正命令の日付 (発送日)

昭和63年 2月23日

5. 補正の対象

図面

6. 補正の内容



Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Hei 1[1989]-156446

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## ALUMINUM ALLOYS WITH EXCELLENT PRESSURE RESISTANCE FOR CASTING

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[Attached amendments have been incorporated into the text of the translation.]

#### Claim

- 1. Aluminum alloys with excellent pressure resistance for casting, containing 4-13 wt% silicon, 0.1-2 wt% magnesium, 0.001-0.01 wt% calcium, the balance being aluminum and impurities, and the iron content in the impurities being 0.2-0.8 wt%.
- 2. Aluminum alloys with excellent pressure resistance for casting, containing 4-13 wt% silicon, 0.1-2 wt% magnesium, 5 wt% or less copper, 0.001-0.01 wt% calcium, the balance being aluminum and impurities, and the iron content in the impurities being 0.2-0.8 wt%.
- 3. Aluminum alloys with excellent pressure resistance for casting, containing 4-13 wt% silicon, 0.1-2 wt% magnesium, 0.001-0.01 wt% calcium, and furthermore containing at least one of 1 wt% or less manganese and 3 wt% or less nickel, the balance being aluminum and impurities, and the iron content in the impurities being 0.2-0.8 wt%.
- 4. Aluminum alloys with excellent pressure resistance for casting, containing 4-13 wt% silicon, 0.1-2 wt% magnesium, 5 wt% or less copper, 0.001-0.01 wt% calcium, and furthermore containing at least one of 1 wt% or less manganese and 3 wt% or less nickel, and the balance being aluminum and impurities, and the iron content in the impurities being 0.2-0.8 wt%.

# Detailed explanation of the invention

## Industrial application field

The present invention pertains to aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys or aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based alloys with excellent pressure resistance for casting that are suitable for mechanical parts requiring a tight pressure seal, such as engine non-block parts of automobiles, ships, vehicles, etc.

#### Prior art

Generally speaking, aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based alloys which can be represented by JIS standards AC4A, AC4C, etc., and aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys which can be represented by AC4D, AC8A, AC8B, AC8C, etc., have good castability, and they can attain excellent mechanical properties and pressure resistance by heat treatment, therefore they have been widely used for casting engine non-block parts such as pistons, hydraulic parts, safety parts, and other mechanical parts in automobiles, ships, vehicles, etc.

### Problems to be solved by the invention

However, with the increase of iron content in these aluminum alloys, the pressure resistance of castings drops rapidly and often there is the danger of generating defects such as lack of pressure tightness of casting parts, which is a problem.

According to the investigation conducted by the present inventors, it became clear that this phenomenon was almost not observed at all when the iron content in the alloys was 0.2% or less; however, when it exceeded 0.2%, the phenomenon appeared now and then, and when it exceeded 0.4%, the tendency became remarkable.

Generally in foundries, from the standpoints of conserving resources and reducing costs, a large amount of a base alloy prepared by mixing scrap with a primary base alloy, which is called a new block, and a secondary base alloy with scrap as a main constituent have been used. However, it is common for scraps to contain a large amount of iron as an impurity, therefore in foundries when the aforementioned alloys are used for the aforementioned purposes, especially when they are used in engine non-block parts which require excellent pressure resistance, such as pistons in automobiles, ships, etc., it is necessary to adjust the iron impurity content to as small as possible, to 0.4% or less, therefore the alloy mixing procedure is very complicated and it causes an increase in costs, thus it is undesirable.

Also, in cast parts having complicated shapes, with the increase of iron content in the alloys, it was easy for poor pressure-resistant regions to form in slow-solidifying parts of thick regions of the alloys. In order to prevent this, it was necessary to carry out strict directional

solidification, thus it was problematic in requiring special measures in the design of [casting] molds and casting plans.

The present inventors carried out extensive study on the causes of the drop in pressure resistance of castings with the increase of iron content in aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based or aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys. As a result, they found that when the iron content in the alloys increased, when casting foundry goods from molten alloys, the iron constituent in the alloy reacted with aluminum and silicon to crystallize into acicular aluminum-silicon-iron-based compounds. The amount of these compounds increased rapidly in the vicinity of the final solidification region of the molten metal, such as the center of the thick part of the casting, and at the same time it became coarse with crosslinked shape [particles] which obstructed the subsequent supply of molten alloy to the region. This causes the generation of crack-like shrinkage voids, or the generation of aggregates of fine continuous linear shrinkage voids, which in turn cause deterioration of the pressure resistance of castings.

As a representative example, (a), (b), (c), and (d) of Figure 1 illustrate the experimental relationship between the generation of shrinkage voids and the iron content in the aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloy casting.

At the time of the experiment, molten aluminum alloys containing 6.5% silicon, 0.3% magnesium, 3.0% copper, and varying iron content were cast in theta [transliteration] molds and then the presence of shrinkage voids was investigated by color check of the cross section of the ingot.

From Figure 1, it is clear that for alloy (a) whose iron content is 0.05%, the solidification shrinkage at the bottom, which is the last part of the ingot to solidify, is roundish, the solidification is complete, and there are almost no shrinkage voids. However, when the iron content is 0.22% as in alloy (b), there are small and fine crack-like shrinkage voids and many fine linear shrinkage voids; and when the iron content of the alloy increases further to 0.36% (as in alloy (c)) and 0.65% (as in alloy (d)), the number and size of the shrinkage voids in the solidification shrinkage at the bottom increase, and some of these shrinkage voids become interconnected.

According to the experiments carried out by the present inventors, this relationship is not limited to alloys having the above-mentioned compositions, but it is a common tendency in aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based alloys and aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys of any compositions for practical casting. Therefore, for actual castings manufactured from these alloys, by surface processing after casting, these shrinkage void defects can easily be exposed on the surface, and liquid and gas can flow to the outside through these defects, thus when castings manufactured using these alloys are used in pressure-resistant components, their pressure resistance can be impaired.

In view of the above-mentioned fact, the present inventors carried out extensive study to overcome these problems, and as a result they found that when an adequate amount of calcium was added to aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based alloys or aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys containing a large amount of iron, the generation of interconnected crack-like shrinkage voids and fine linear shrinkage voids can be reduced remarkably, thereby the pressure resistance of castings can be further improved.

# Means to solve the problems

That is, the present invention is aluminum alloys with excellent pressure resistance for casting, which are composed of 4-13 wt% silicon, 0.1-2 wt% magnesium, 0.001-0.01 wt% calcium and, if necessary, contain 5 wt% or less copper, 1 wt% or less manganese and 3 wt% or less nickel, and the balance is aluminum and impurities, the iron content in the impurities is 0.2-0.8 wt%.

# Operation

According to the present invention, when the iron content in the alloys is approximately 0.8%, calcium is added so that the calcium content in the alloys is 0.001-0.01%, then in traditional practical aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based alloy castings or aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloy castings, the drop in pressure resistance based on the iron content in the alloys can be prevented without impairing other excellent characteristics unique to the alloy castings, but the strength and toughness are improved. Therefore, even when scrap base metal or secondary base alloys containing a large amount of iron are used in foundries, foundry goods requiring excellent pressure resistance, such as engine non-block parts of automobiles, ships, etc., can be cast without adjusting the iron content in the metals, thus it is very effective.

Next, the functions of the addition of each element to the alloys and the reasons for limiting their content will be explained.

The addition of 4.0-13% silicon is to strengthen the alloy matrix and it has the effect of improving the flow characteristics of the molten alloys, shrinkage void, and foundry flaws. When it is less than 4.0%, the effect is minor, whereas when it is greater than 13%, the decrease in toughness and thermal impact resistance is remarkable.

The addition of 0.1-2% magnesium has the effect of strengthening the alloy matrix by precipitation of Mg<sub>2</sub>Si in the alloy structure after heat treatment. When it is less than 0.1%, the effect is minor, whereas when it is greater than 2%, the elongation is small and the castability decreases.

The addition of 5% or less copper imparts remarkable strength to the cast alloy by aging hardening when heat treatment was carried out, but the addition of greater than 5% reduces the elongation and impairs the toughness of the alloy.

The addition of 1% or less manganese and 3% or less nickel can impart heat resistance to the casting. However, when the amount of manganese added exceeds 1%, the manganese added reacts with aluminum, silicon, and iron impurities to form aluminum-manganese-silicon-iron-based coarse acicular compounds which reduce the toughness of the casting. When the amount of nickel added exceeds 3%, aluminum-nickel-based coarse compounds are formed and they also bring about reduction of toughness of the casting.

In the present invention, 0.001-0.01% calcium is added to aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based alloys or aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys having the above-mentioned compositions and, if necessary, the alloys further contain copper, manganese, and nickel; and as mentioned before, the function of calcium in the above-mentioned content is to prevent a drop in pressure resistance caused by the increase of shrinkage void defects in cast alloy products due to the iron content in the two types of alloys. When the calcium content is less than 0.001%, the effect of the addition of calcium is minor, whereas when it is greater than 0.01%, the fluidity of molten alloys is reduced so that molten alloy blocks easily form in the casting, thus it is difficult to obtain a sound product.

The range of iron content in alloys with improvement of pressure resistance due to the addition of calcium is limited to 0.2-0.8%.

The reason is because there is no problem in the pressure resistance of cast alloy when the iron content is less than 0.2%, however, when the iron content is greater than 0.8%, a sufficient improvement of pressure resistance cannot be obtained even by the addition of calcium.

For the preparation of alloys of the present invention, methods which are generally used with these types of alloys can be used, and for the addition of calcium, either calcium metal, aluminum-calcium alloys, or calcium-containing fluxes can be used.

When the alloys of the present invention are cast for manufacturing various foundry articles, the cast structure in this kind of alloy is often improved by treating the alloys with sodium or strontium, and the [grain] refining treatment of the alloys is carried out with titanium, boron, etc. The presence of these metals added to the alloys do not hinder the effect of the present invention as long as these treatments are carried out within the scope of the addition of these metals using a common method, thus it does not constitute a hindrance.

Of course the alloys of the present invention are applicable to sand mold casting and metal mold casting, and even when they are applied to die casting (which has increased in recent years) and low-pressure casting, the pressure resistance of cast products can be improved.

Next, application examples of the present invention will be shown.

## Application examples

Alloys of various compositions shown in Table 1 were prepared. At pouring temperature 720°C and mold temperature 200°C, they were cast in a JIS ship bottom metal mold and a theta mold, thereby specimens for testing strength, elongation, and for observing shrinkage voids were prepared. The calcium in the alloys was added using an aluminum-5% calcium master alloy. The strength and elongation were measured after the specimen was kept at 500°C for 6 h, followed by water quenching, and annealing at 180°C for 6 h (T<sub>0</sub> treatment).

As to the observation of shrinkage voids, the cast alloy which was cast in a theta mold was divided into two in the vertical direction, and the divided surface was smoothed by machining, then it was color-checked for investigating the presence of shrinkage voids. The results are shown in Table 1. With reference to the experimental results shown in Figure 1, the observation results of the shrinkage voids were classified as rank A as in (a), in which harmful shrinkage voids were not observed, rank B as in (b), rank C as in (c), and rank D as in (d), in the order of increasing shrinkage voids.

Table 1

|        |     |      |      |          |              |     |      |     |    | 3        | (4)   | (3) |               |          |
|--------|-----|------|------|----------|--------------|-----|------|-----|----|----------|-------|-----|---------------|----------|
| $\sim$ | IAF | (2)  | 化    | 7        | 粗            | Į,  | Ŗ    | (X) |    | 強度       | 伸び    | 果ラ  | 附             |          |
| W      | 香ワ  | Si   | Mg   | Cu       | Fe           | Mn  | Ni   | Ca* | Al | (Xg ==") | (3)   | ンク  | 6             |          |
|        | 1   | 7.0  | 0. 3 | _        | 0. 05        | -   | _    | 2   | 规  | 28.3     | 15. 3 | A   | (3)           |          |
|        | 2   | 5. 0 | 1.0  | -        | 0.65         | -   | -    | 2   | 残  | 32.0     | 1.2   | D   | 比較            |          |
|        | 3   | 7. 8 | 0. 3 | -        | 0. 43        | -   | -    | Z   | 残  | 27.1     | 3. 9  | С   | 94            |          |
|        | 4   | 11.0 | 1.5  |          | 0. 22        | _   | -    | . 2 | 残  | 35. 2    | 2. 2  | В   |               |          |
|        | 5   | 5. 0 | 1. 0 | _        | 0. 65        | -   | _    | 29  | 残  | 32. 0    | 2.7   | ٨   | 3B 1          |          |
|        | 6   | 7.0  | 0. 3 | -        | 0. 43        | -   | -    | 50  | 残  | 28. 0    | 7.1   | A   | 翔             |          |
|        | 7   | 11.0 | 1.5  | <u> </u> | 0. 22        | _   | _    | 80  | 残  | 38. 5    | 3.5   | Α   | (9)           |          |
|        | 8   | 7.8  | 0. 3 | _        | 0. 43        | 1.0 | -    | 20  | 残  | 26. 9    | 6. 4  | A   | <b>33</b> 3 ( | 10)      |
|        | 9   | 7.0  | 0. 3 |          | 0. 43        | _   | 2. 8 | 40  | 残  | 29. 3    | 5. 2  | A   | 発明            | $\Gamma$ |
|        | 10  | 5. 0 | 1.0  | 4.0      | 0.65         | -   | -    | 2   | 残  | 35. 9    | 0.9   | D   | 比较            |          |
|        | 11  | 6.5  | 0. 3 | 3. 0     | B. <b>43</b> | _   |      | 2   | 残  | 33. 6    | 4. 2  | C   | 例             |          |
|        | 12  | 11.0 | 1.5  | 1.0      | 0. 22        | _   |      | 2   | 残  | 34. 2    | 1.1   | В   | (8)           |          |
|        | 13  | 5. 0 | 1.0  | 4. 0     | 0.65         |     | -    | 30  | 残  | 37. 1    | 5. 5  | A   | 352           |          |
|        | 14  | 6.5  | 0.3  | 3. 6     | 8. 43        | -   | -    | 55  | 残  | 33, 9    | 4.9   | A   | 舞             |          |
|        | 15  | 11.0 | 1. 5 | 1.0      | 0. 22        | _   | _    | 85  | 残  | 38. 2    | 1.7   | A   | (1)           | 1        |
|        | 16  | 6.5  | 0. 3 | 3. 0     | 0. 43        | 1.0 | -    | 25  | 残  | 33. 5    | 1.0   | A   | 第4            | 12)      |
|        | 17  | 6. 5 | 0. 3 | 3. 0     | 0. 43        |     | 2. 0 | 45  | 残  | 31.7     | 1.2   | ۸   | 発明            | ۳        |
|        |     |      |      |          |              |     |      |     |    |          |       |     |               | _        |

Key: 1 Sample No.

2 Chemical composition

- 3 Strength
- 4 Elongation
- 5 Rank of shrinkage void
- 6 Remarks
- 7 Balance
- 8 Comparative example
- 9 The first invention
- 10 The third invention
- 11 The second invention
- 12 The fourth invention
- \*: Expressed in ppm.

From the results of Table 1, it is clear that in traditional aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based alloys (Sample Nos. 1-4) and aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys (Sample Nos. 10-12) containing no calcium, when the iron content is low, the shrinkage void rank is A which has no problems (Sample No. 1). However, when the iron content exceeds 0.2% (Sample Nos. 2-4 and 10-12), harmful shrinkage voids are observed as the amount of harmful substance increases in B, C, and D, and harmful shrinkage voids increase, causing a problem with pressure resistance of cast articles manufactured using these alloys. However, in the first to the fourth alloys (Sample Nos. 5-9 and 13-17) of the present invention in which the amount of calcium added was within the scope of the present invention, there were no harmful shrinkage voids (rank A), even when the iron content exceeded 0.2%, thus the alloys of the present invention have excellent pressure resistance.

From the results of the measurement of strength and elongation, it is clear that both the strength and elongation of aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based alloys and aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys of the present invention are improved, and the mechanical properties, especially the toughness, are excellent when compared with those of traditional alloys having compositions of silicon, magnesium and copper identical to those of the above-mentioned alloys of the present invention.

#### Effect

As mentioned above, the cast articles manufactured by casting aluminum alloys of the present invention which can be obtained by adding an adequate amount of calcium to traditional aluminum-silicon-magnesium-based alloys or aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys do not have shrinkage voids irrespective of the increase of iron content in the alloys. Therefore, they have excellent pressure resistance and, moreover, their strength and toughness are improved so that they are most suitable for casting parts of engines of automobiles and ships, hydraulic

containers, and other items, such as non-block mechanical parts, which require pressure resistance.

In foundries, at the time of mixing scraps with secondary alloys, the preparation of alloy ingots can be carried out without bothering to adjust the iron impurity content, thus it is very efficient and economic.

### Brief description of the figures

Figure 1(a), (b), (c), and (d) are samples for observing the shrinkage void by color check for showing the relationship between the shrinkage void generation and iron content in traditional aluminum-silicon-magnesium-copper-based alloys. At the same time, these samples also show the ranks which indicate the degree of generation of shrinkage voids. The quantity of shrinkage voids increases in the order of A, B, C, and D.

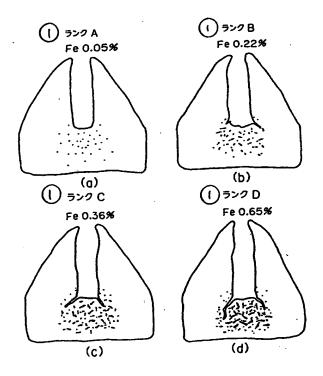


Figure 1

Key: 1 Rank \_\_\_\_